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our language. He who aspires to a thorough knowledge of history must study these volumes, not only for the light they throw on an important period in the annals of Great Britain, but also for the profound political maxims, which were struck out by a mind of no ordinary powers of reflection and generalization, but unluckily more capable of tracing out the theory of wise and upright statesmanship, than of exemplifying it in action. The classical scholar will also be gratified with the productions of an intellect, which, though not richly stored with Grecian lore, was thoroughly imbued with the spirit of Roman literature, and in some lighter essays exhibited no mean or feeble imitation of the manner of Seneca and Cicero. In the hope that purchasers, capable of appreciating both the good and bad qualities of such a writer, may be found in sufficient number to compensate the publishers for their spirited enterprise, we commend this edition to public notice.

12. — *A Discourse on the Importance of the Study of Political Science, as a Branch of Academic Education in the United States.* Read before the Literary Societies of Randolph-Macon College, June 16, 1840. By N. BEVERLEY TUCKER, Professor of Law and the Philosophy of Government in the University of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia. Richmond: Peter D. Barnard. 1840. Svo. pp. 28.

PROFESSOR TUCKER writes with the freedom and elegance of a scholar, to whom long practice and a correct taste have given sufficient command over the resources of language, and whose intellect, well disciplined with study and reflection, supplies sufficient matter and thought, wherewith to fill out the framework of his subject. If any fault occasionally appears, it is, that perfect facility of expression sometimes betrays him into loose and discursive talk, which postpone too long the effectual treatment of the argument, and then sometimes plays round its surface, instead of tracing out its intricacies, or piercing into its depths. He shows, at times, sufficient vigor and penetration to handle worthily a difficult theme, and if his style were rather more tightly braced, he might instruct and convince, instead of merely entertaining his reader. Pride of country and strong attachment to our political institutions appear natural and graceful in one, whose office has required him for years to study and expound the theory and principles of our laws and government. But such feelings go too far, when they tempt

him to institute invidious comparisons, and to speak with contempt of technical phrases, that have become constitutional forms in other countries, and which, though there may not be much meaning in them, are there hallowed by time and pleasing associations. Gallantry, if not good taste, should have tempered Judge Tucker's rather caustic notice of the youthful Queen of England, who may be a very innocent and even lovely personage, although, by no fault or merit of her own, she has inherited the crown of three kingdoms. "Unfortunate young woman," quotha! It would require some philosophy to refuse or resign such a position as hers, though it may expose her to the censure or pity of some graybeards. Our writer goes on to sin still further against good manners as well as good taste, when he stoops to call Prince Albert "a boy, a singing, rhyming coxcomb." Such expressions are peculiarly out of place in a grave discourse, though anywhere they would appear pointless, ill-natured, and absurd.

We gladly turn to hear Judge Tucker speak on a home subject, to which he brings the weight of much experience and laborious meditation. The nature of constitutional restrictions, the importance of studying them with care, and their paramount obligation even to the expressed will of the people, are points which he treats at some length and with great ability. The latitude and longitude of his residence, and the scene of his labors, will enable most readers to infer the general tenor and bearing of his remarks with tolerable correctness. Local schools of politics exist everywhere in this country, but circumstances occasion their being more strongly marked at the South, than in other regions, and Virginia is perhaps preëminent for their cultivation. We do not mean, that peculiarities arising from this source are offensively apparent in the discourse, but they tinge the writer's speculations to a sufficient extent to indicate his birthplace.

We go along with him entirely in the reverence he expresses for the Constitution, and the gratitude due to the eminent men, who were its founders and supporters. That this important instrument presents a study of no little complexity and toil for its proper interpretation, and that it is no less a privilege than a duty of every citizen to apply himself to this labor, which is also properly rendered a branch of academic education, are truths which are clearly and successfully presented in the Address. The title of the Institution where it was delivered, which was designed to do honor to two eminent statesmen, gives occasion to the speaker to pay a feeling and eloquent tribute to the memory of one of them, who was his own relative by blood, and one whom, during his lifetime, the parent State delighted

to honor. Different opinions may exist respecting the wisdom of Mr. Randolph's political principles, and the discretion which he evinced in his public career ; but there can be no doubt of his eminent abilities, and his sincere devotion of them to the interests of Virginia, from whom, therefore, his memory deserves all the eulogies which her gratitude can bestow.

13. — *The Rhode-Island Book ; Selections in Prose and Verse from the Writings of Rhode Island Citizens.* By ANNE C. LYNCH. Providence : H. Fuller. 1841. 12mo. pp. 352.

THIS volume has, we think, uncommon merit among works of its class. Rhode Island, though a small State, has produced its full share of distinguished writers, both in prose and poetry. In the list of contributors to the present work, we find many names already known to fame, in the walks of literature or public life ; we find the sound sense and vigorous eloquence of a Wayland, the lively imagination of a Rockwell, the humor of a Green (the author of "Old Grimes"), the copious and vehement and forcible style of a Burges, and the polished and classical composition of Professor Goddard. Besides these, many other names, to us heretofore unknown, but destined to shine in American letters, adorn its pages. We are glad to see some pieces of that suffering child of song, Miss Taggart, inserted here. Her extraordinary case excited the public sympathy several years ago, and the little volume of poems, composed by her under the most severe and incessant physical pains, was justly regarded as a remarkable literary phenomenon. We notice several very poetical pieces by Miss Jacobs, the best of which is that "suggested by Alston's Picture of Jeremiah and Baruch in the prison" ; and two or three by Mr. Brooks the able translator of Schiller's "William Tell." Among the pieces by Green we select "The Baron's Last Banquet" as a very successful essay in the ballad style.

O'ER a low couch the setting sun had thrown its latest ray,
Where in his last strong agony a dying warrior lay,
The stern old Baron Rudiger, whose frame had ne'er been bent
By wasting pain, till time and toil its iron strength had spent.

"They come around me here, and say my days of life are o'er,
That I shall mount my noble steed and lead my band no more ;
They come, and to my beard they dare to tell me now, that I,
Their own liege lord and master born,—that I, ha ! ha ! must die.